

REMARKS

Claim Status

Claims 73-106 are pending in the application. New independent claim 104 is loosely modeled after claim 86. Of course, features from claim 86 should not be read into claims 104, and vice versa. Claims 83, 94 (changing “and” to --or--) and 100 (clarifying the claim dependency) are amended in an editorial manner. And claims 81, 90 and 100 are amended without prejudice by changing the term “hidden” to --encoded--.

Art-based rejections

Claims 73, 75-82, 84-91, 93-95 and 97-103 stand rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,337,361 (hereafter referred to as “the Wang patent”). Claims 74, 83 and 92 stand rejected as being unpatentable over the Wang patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,984,366 (hereafter referred to as “the Priddy patent”). And Claim 96 stands rejected as being unpatentable over the Wang patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,799,092 (hereafter referred to as “the Kristol patent”).

We expressly traverse these rejections.

Rejections over the Wang patent

Claim 73

Claim 73 recites – in combination with other features – electronic circuitry carried on or in the substrate. The electronic circuitry includes information stored therein.

Electronic circuitry implies, e.g., physical circuits, structure or components. One example is electronic components included in smart cards; another example is an RFID; yet another example is electronic memory circuits or chips. (Of course, many other components and circuits will fall within the scope of this feature.)

Curiously, though, the Office Action cites the Wang patent at Col. 3, lines 58-61. Please see the Office Action on page 3, lines 4-5 of paragraph 7. This passage discusses a printed, two-dimensional barcode pattern – a PDF417. An example of the barcode pattern is shown in the Wang patent at Fig. 1A, item 18 (reproduced below on page 11).

But a printed PDF417 barcode is not electronic circuitry.

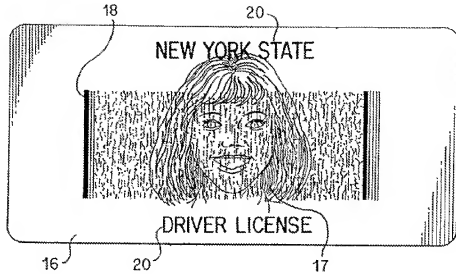


FIG. 1A

Claim 73 also recites – in combination with other features – that the code once obtained (obtained from steganographic encoding) unlocks the electronic circuitry or the information stored therein.

The Office Action cites the Wang patent at Col. 8, lines 38-41 to meet this feature. Please see the Office Action on page 3, lines 10-12 of paragraph 7. While this passages discusses a decoding means 30 to decode data representing the barcode pattern 18, it does not teach or suggest using a code obtained from steganographic encoding to unlock electronic circuitry or information stored therein.

Claim 73 also recites – in combination with other features – that the first graphic comprising steganographically encoding including a plural-bit first message that is machine-readable.

In the context of claim 73 the phrase “the first graphic comprising steganographic encoding” implies that the graphic is changed or encoded to carry data. The encoding is preferably subtle, so as to be steganographic. For example, pixel values (or color or luminance values) may be subtly changes to encode data, or transform domain coefficients may be altered, etc.

While the Wang patent may discuss printing an invisible ink over or on top of a photographic-representation (see Col. 3, lines 58-59), there is no teaching or suggestion, however, that data is steganographically encoded in the first graphic.

(We need not explore other deficiencies with the Wang patent and the application of such in the Office Action at this time.)

We respectfully request that the rejection of claim 73 be withdrawn.

Claim 86

Claim 86 recites – in combination with other features – electronic circuitry carried on or in the substrate. The electronic circuitry includes data stored therein.

Electronic circuitry implies, e.g., physical circuits, structure or components. One example is electronic components included in smart cards; another example is an RFID; yet another example is electronic memory circuits or chips. (Of course, many other components and circuits will fall within the scope of this feature.)

The Office Action cites the Wang patent at Col. 3, lines 58-61. Please see the Office Action on page 4, lines 5-6 of paragraph 9. But this passage discusses a printed, two-dimensional barcode pattern – a PDF417. An example of the barcode pattern is shown in the Wang patent at Fig. 1A, item 18 (reproduced above on page 11).

But a printed PDF417 barcode is not electronic circuitry.

Claim 86 also recites – in combination with other features – information carried on or in a substrate. The information is recognizable from optical scan data corresponding to at least a portion of the information carried on or in the substrate. For example, the information may be carried in a digital watermark, be carried with optically recognized characters, or by another carrier.

Claim 86 continues by reciting that at least a portion of the information once recognized unlocks the electronic circuitry or the data stored therein.

The Office Action cites the Wang patent at Col. 8, lines 38-41. Please see the Office Action at page 4, lines 10-11 of paragraph 9. While this passage discusses reading or decoding information from a PDF417 barcode, it does not teach or suggest using a portion of information carried on or in a substrate to unlock electronic circuitry or data stored therein.

(We need not explore other deficiencies with the Wang patent and the application of such in the Office Action at this time.)

We respectfully request that the rejection of claim 86 be withdrawn.

Claim 101

Claim 101 recites – in combination with other features – electronic circuitry carried on or in the substrate. The electronic circuitry includes data stored therein.

Electronic circuitry implies, e.g., physical circuits, structure or components. One example is electronic components included in smart cards; another example is an RFID; yet another example is electronic memory circuits or chips. (Of course, many other components and circuits will fall within the scope of this feature.)

The Office Action cites the Wang patent at Col. 3, lines 58-61. Please see the Office Action on page 5, lines 5-6 of paragraph 11. But this passage discusses a printed, two-dimensional barcode pattern – a PDF417. An example of the barcode pattern is shown in the Wang patent at Fig. 1A, item 18 (reproduced above on page 11).

A printed PDF417 barcode is not electronic circuitry.

Claim 101 also recites – in combination with other features – information carried on or in a substrate. The information is obtainable from optical scan data corresponding to at least a portion of the information carried on or in the substrate. For example, the information may be obtained from a digital watermark or obtained from characters provided on the document.

Claim 101 also recites that at least a portion of the information once obtained is to be utilized to unlock the electronic circuitry or the data stored therein.

The Office Action again cites the Wang patent at Col. 8, lines 38-41. Please see the Office Action at page 5, lines 10-11 of paragraph 11. And while this passage may discuss reading or decoding information from a PDF417 barcode, it does not teach or suggest a portion of obtained information to be utilized to unlock electronic circuitry or data stored therein.

(We need not explore other deficiencies with the Wang patent and the application of such in the Office Action at this time.)

We respectfully request that the rejection of claim 101 be withdrawn.

Independent Claims 77, 94 and 104

Claims 77 and 94 recite some analogous features (e.g., electronic circuitry and unlocking of such); thus, the rejections of these claims should be withdrawn for at least reasons which are analogous to those discussed above.

And new Claim 104 recites that at least a portion of information once obtained allows access to electronic circuitry or data stored therein. Again, the analogous cited sections in the Wang patent do not teach or suggest these features, in combination with the other recited features.

(We need not explore the many other deficiencies with the Wang patent and the application of such in the Office Action, but we reserve the right to do.)

We respectfully request that the rejection of claims 77, 94 and 104 be withdrawn.

Dependent Claims 81, 90 and 100

These claims variously recite that symbols (claim 81) or information (claims 90 and 100) are steganographically encoded in a photographic-representation of an authorized bearer of an identification document.

In the context of these claims the phrase “steganographically encoded in a photographic-representation” implies data changing or encoding. The encoding is preferably subtle, so as to be steganographic. For example, pixel values (or color or luminance values) may be subtly changed to encode data, or transform domain coefficients (e.g., DCT coefficients) may be altered, etc.

The cited passages in the Wang patent (Col. 3, lines 67- Col. 4, line 3) discuss printing an invisible ink over or on top of (see also Col. 3, lines 58-59) a photographic-representation. There is no teaching or suggestion at this passage, however, that symbols or information are steganographically encoded in the photographic-representation.

The rejection of these claims should be withdrawn as well.

Dependent Claim 95

Claim 95 recites that at least a portion of the information - once processed - is for cooperation with the electronic circuitry or the data stored therein.

But the cited passages at Col. 3, lines 58-61 (e.g., discussing a printed PDF417 barcode) and Col. 8, lines 38-41 (e.g., discussing decoding data from the PDF417 barcode) do not discuss cooperation between information (once processed) and electronic circuitry or data stored therein.

We respectfully ask that the rejection of claim 95 be withdrawn.

Remaining Claims

We respectfully submit that the remaining claims also recite patentable combinations. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

(We also object to the proposed combination of the Priddy patent and the Kristol patent with the Wang patent as suggested.)

Conclusion

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Nevertheless, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 503-469-4685 if any questions remain.

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Respectfully submitted,

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